

GRAUSTARK

#24

"Winter 1903"

25 April 1964

BRITISH PREMIER RESIGNS: COALITION CABINET TAKES OVER

James Goldman, who has played England in the first three years of 1964A, has just received greetings from the United States government and will be unable to continue play. Accordingly, play of the English forces has been taken over by

YOUNGSTOWN UNIVERSITY DIPLOMACY CLUB

c/o John Koning

318 South Belle Vista

Youngstown, Ohio 44509

YUDC play in 1964A will begin with the Spring 1904 move.

The following establishments and removals of units were made in Winter 1903:

ENGLAND: Establishes F Liv.

FRANCE: Removes A Gas.

ITALY: Establishes A Ven, A Rom.

RUSSIA: Removes A Mos, A War, F Fin.

TURKEY: Establishes A Smy, A Ank.

The deadline for Spring 1904 moves is Saturday 9 May 1964. Players are urged to continue their recent practice of sending in moves ahead of the deadline, so that publication of GRAUSTARK at the earliest possible date can be effected and the game thus expedited.

Three or four places are still open in games 1964B and 1964C. Entrants should send the entry fee of \$2 to the Gamesmaster before 2 May 1964. Seven entrants will participate in 1964B, and the remaining 7 entries will be sent on to Dick Schultz, who will be Gamesmaster of 1964C.

Moves of 1964B will be published in FREDONIA, the first issue of which will be published in about a week. Subscriptions to FREDONIA for non-players are 10 issues for \$1. The bulletin of 1964C, which will be called Breedingnag, will be available at the same rate from Dick Schultz, 19159 Helen, Detroit, Michigan 48234.

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PARIS (New York Times Service, Special: Dick Tyler): The true story of the fall of the government of Premier Delcasse was leaked to certain members of the press today in an attempt to stop the machinations of the rumormongers.

Last October 27th was a day of hurried tension in Paris. The press had been in an uproar since learning of the presense of the English Fleet in the Channel. Every Anglophobe in the nation was heaping scorn and abuse on the heads of the government for signing what now seemed to be a disastrous and hypocritical treaty of non-aggression with Great Britain. The Assembly, in continuous session for two days, had done little but threaten to topple the cabinet and what remained of stable government.

It was then that word leaked out about the confusion in command that had prevented counter-attacks by French Armed Forces. Aside from repulsing minor German thrusts at Belgium and Paris not a corp nor a single soldier had moved from the positions achieved in

the spring campaign of 1902. Marseilles was undefended except for bearded reservists and an undermanned police force. A company of Marines stood between an English fleet and loss of the great base in Brest. And not a unit had anywhere moved to the defence of these areas. Not an assault was launched on the German armies who trod the ravaged soil of Burgundy.

At the time government indecision was blamed, but today it was learned there was a greater and deadlier cause. The Admiralty was in open revolt against the surrender of the seas to England and the hopeless and useless strategic position of the fleet and Marines operating out of Antwerp. The chiefs of staff and Corp commanders of the Army knew of England's breaking the treaty in September, and this concrete threat to France's rear must have convinced them that the Navy's wailings were not just, in the American phrase, "sour grapes", because of its downgrading. The II Army Group in Picardy and the III in Gascony (who had been decimated in Burgundy) joined with Naval units to support a coup against the government. But I Group in Paris and the IV in Spain stayed loyal, and this was what immobilized all French fighting forces--they were watching each other rather than the enemy.

As we now know a compromise was reached between the factions that restored parliamentary unity, muted the press and turned the military back to its constitutional duties--defending the state. Premier Delcasse resigned with his Foreign and War Ministers, but the other members of the cabinet retained office. M. Robichaud assumed the highest office in the land not because of what he stood for, but because all factions agreed they had nothing against him and that he was a competent Governor of Brittany. (The deception in Brest with the Marine company was of his doing.)

Today France is united, but another setback like the defeat of the Spring 1903 offensive into Burgundy might again throw the nation into civil disorder. And this time the Anglo-German Alliance would probably make better use of their opportunity.

MOSCOW (INA): Prince Alexei made his first appearance in public today since his near-fatal brush with death this summer. Devoid of both an arm and a leg he still made an impressive figure in his unadorned green officer's uniform.

He addressed the Duma in the White Hall of the Palace of St. George in the Kremlin and called for a nation-wide acceptance of British and German domination over Mother Russia.

He also stated that neither the Kaiser nor the English government intended to dismember Russia nor to destroy the public good. He called for the acceptance of the British and German armed forces within Russia and the promotion of public tranquility. The Land Distribution Laws were to remain in effect and the Presidency Dumas of Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Byelo-Russia, Poland, Armenia, and Trans-Caucasia were to remain in operation for the present.

At this point the Prince broke down and cried upon the shoulders of his cousins, Friedrich and Wilhelm, present as members for Ishzhév and Kostoma respectively.

After nearly an hour of dazed desultory conversation by the members, the Prince resumed by requesting that all roads and rail lines be maintained in as good order as the winter weather would permit, to allow the speedy transportation south of the British

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

59

NEW YORK, NEW YORK (AP): Though still burdened with a translator, the Czarina of Russia stormed High Society last night and swept the upper crust off their feet.

Dressed simply in a high-sleeved blue gown and a small tiara, the Czarina managed to look as if she was beginning to accept the facts of her position. At present she is still residing in the Russian consulate but is reportedly looking for a residence, somewhere on the Sound, on which to raise her children.

Titania and Olga were present but very reclusive and reluctant to be interviewed. However, in French Olga maintained that the British cruiser which deposited the royal family in America was quite crowded and smelly, not unlike the nice white yacht she remembered from years past on the Black Sea. She was quite sad to learn that it had been torpedoed by a Turkish destroyer off Odessa just the past week.

Anastasia reportedly had the croup but was recovering. The baby is quite a pretty child, according to reports, with blue eyes and blond hair, like her mother's side of the family.

ST. PETERSBURG (INF): The Russian Marines marched off the boats from Kronstadt today to fifes, drums and bagpipes. After nearly two years of off-and-on bombardment by ship and shore, the garrison of the Naval Fortress on Kronstadt Island formally removed itself from the island and stacked their side-arms in the Proveny Square by the river Neva. The proud cruiser Olympia stuck its battered masts out of the frozen river, a monument to a futile struggle.

The Russian Marines themselves were notable for their emaciated aspect and their almost uniform lack of boots fit for winter wear. The British Admiralty received permission to receive the surrender and greeted the worn losers with sad bagpipe music and stone-faced silent ranks of sailors and British soldiers. They were received later at the POW camps to the west of the city where the Bushkin and Schussleberg pockets are interned.

WILNO, LITHUANIA (UP): After a tense 48 hours, the Lithuanian garrison in the fortress city here agreed to accept the orders from Moscow and marched out to stack arms before the Scots Black Watch regiment.

The Russian troops in this area had never seen fire, were newly formed, well armed and occupying formidable positions in the Iron Triangle of Grodno, Wilno, and Kovno. General Weimer finally consented to the surrender and, following the example of the Tsar Nicholas II, shot himself in the head after the necessary paperwork had been completed.

Exiled, as was Mannerheim, for many years, Weimer expressed the new love of his Baltic countrymen for the Russian Tsar in many ways for many years. Brought back to a Lithuania with its own Duma, he was given a command, wounded on the Austrian front and sent home to organize all-Lithuanian units.

As a last wish, he asked to be buried at St. Maria's in Moscow, where the red marble sarcophagus of Nicholas the Second contains the mortal remains of what may have been the last of the Tsars.

PRZEMYSL, GALICIA (USIP): General Kerensky today revealed that he was indeed the last survivor of the General Staff of the 1st Warsaw Army Group General Staff.

The treacherous Italian ambush at Ujvidek on the Drave River killed the rest of the staff. Giving the lie to Italian statements of Russian perfidy, General Kerensky revealed that the staff was there to meet with the Italian forces on how best to cope with the Turkish betrayal.

Spotting his tale with personal experiences, General Kerensky told how the town was surrounded by the Italians and obliterated by artillery fire, without even so much as the excuse of a declara-

tion of war.

General Kerensky asked the Press how sensible was the notion that the Russians would attack the last ally that she had facing her? Which meant that the butchery and entrapment of the 1st Army Group Staff was a deliberately conceived part of a treacherous determination to betray the Russians.

The General refused to discuss the condition of his forces or his immediate plans in the war. He merely stated that he had been ordered to continue the War against the Italians and Turks. He made no comment to the query as to what he would do when the Germans and British entered Galicia with their occupation forces except that he was a loyal and dutiful soldier of Mother Russia.

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Accompanying GRAUSTARK #24 is Die Wis #12, published by Dick Schultz.

Other OPERATION AGITATION publications available from John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11218, are:

KNOWABLE, a science-fiction and fantasy fanzine. The current issue, #7, contains an article on relativity theory, another article on the formation of the continents, three more chapters of a round robin Story (illustrated by Perdita Boardman), three filk songs, and a brawling letter column. KNOWABLE is 25¢ an issue, or 5 for \$1.

POINTING VECTOR is an amateur journal of comment on just about anything, including politics, religion, economics, and whatever else that the editor may think of. The next issue, #20, will be out in a couple of weeks. It will contain an article on the forthcoming British elections, a proposal for a MacArthur Memorial at Anacostia Flats, and a short story "The Assassination of Nikita Khrushchev". Like KNOWABLE, PV is published at irregular intervals at 25¢ the copy, 5 for \$1.

The first issue of FREDONIA, the bulletin of Postal Diplomacy game 1964B, will appear in one week, and thenceforth every other week. Subscribe to it at 10 issues for \$1.

GRAUSTARK #24
25 April 1964
John Boardman
592 16th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218
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P R O C L A M A T I O N

2 January 1904

LONDON

(28 April 1964A)

SOVEREIGNS, EMPERORS, SULTANS, MINISTERS, AND ASSORTED UPSTARTS:

A spectre is sweeping Europe; the spectre of Imperialism. The last three years have seen neighbour turn on neighbour, ally on ally, Christian on Turk. As the first consequence of this madness, the royal House of Hapsburg lies in ruins. Great Britain shall not follow it into historical oblivion.

Be it known that on the first day of this new year, A.D. 1904, the Unionist party has fallen from power, and been replaced by a Liberal-Labour Coalition strongly supported by the Steel Valley Group (SVG). Our gracious King, Edward VII, in response to a growing clamour not only from the mining and industrial towns but also from the impoverished farmers of England and Scotland, asked Lord Balfour, during the Parliamentary Christmas Party, to dissolve his cabinet. Balfour, with the lack of tact for which he is noted, replied by smashing the ancient wassail bowl, throwing the lampshade he had been wearing at the King, and laying about him with his cane. The former Prime Minister was finally subdued. He was taken to the nearby infirmary kept ready for berserk Prime Ministers, shrieking obscenities and shouting the name of "Guy Fawkes." A Parliamentary election on 28 December 1903 returned a Unionist minority of only 178.

The move was a logical consequence of an Imperialistic policy that has left England virtually unguarded while her fleets and armies rush about in Scandinavia. The massing of the French fleets off Brest -- coupled with the fall of the pro-English Premier Delcasse there -- and the news of an Italian fleet sailing with all deliberation upon our western shore made such action inevitable.

The Coalition -- headed by the former Opposition leader, Liberal John Koning, as P.M., with the Fabian orator John Smythe as Foreign Minister -- has undertaken an immediate reappraisal of Great Britain's position and commitments in Europe and Eurasia.

The first step in the Coalition's reorganization has been to recall the greater portion of the proud British navy to defend our coasts. While the friendly intentions of the French fleet are not to be doubted, the Italian detachment steaming across the Mid-Atlantic offers ample evidence of the hostility of Italy. One is led to believe that the Italians have taken too much to heart the words of Giacomo Leopardi:

O my country, I see the walls and the arches
And the columns and the images and the solitary
Towers of our Roman forbears --
But I do not see the glory.

That a nation that, until the last three decades, has been little more than a squabbling pack of uncivilized city-states should even consider the invasion of our proud millenium-old Empire is unthinkable. God would not allow such an abomination..... but what would

the Italians know of that, keeping as they do even the Patriarch of their own Church a prisoner within his Vatican?

A brilliant Admiral, newly returned from the British colony on Samothrace, has taken command of the greater part of the British Navy, and has begun secret operations off the south coast. The Admiral himself is something of a secret, and is referred to in dispatches only by what appears to be his code name -- "Tros."

Meanwhile, Koning has appointed to the newly-created post of Minister of Psycho-History the renowned Oxfordian scholar Hari Seldon. The purposes of the Psycho-History Ministry are unclear at the moment, but it is said to have something to do with statistics and forecasting.

Foreign Minister Smythe is making rapid attempts to reopen negotiations with several nations alienated by the high-handed policies of his predecessor Joseph Chamberlain. New foreign policy pronouncements are expected momentarily.

It is already known that Smythe has dispatched a new Ambassador to our former ally Russia, in hopes of succoring her in her present difficulties with her neighbours. It is rumored that the Ambassador, Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov, has instructions from the new British Chief-of-Staff, Lev Bronstein, to investigate the conduct of Sir John French, who has been commanding the British armies in the North. Ulyanov was instrumental in setting up this year's Congress of the Second International, and is held in high esteem within both the Labour and the Liberal parties. Ambassador Ulyanov, who is growing a beard in preparation for his presentation to whatever power rules in Russia upon his arrival, dropped his portfolio in his hurried departure. His aide, a Mr. J. Steel, will pick it up where he left it off.

The new government of Great Britain extends to its fellow rulers and ruling bodies about Europe an invitation to join together in building a newer and stronger Europe. (The government also asks the indulgence of the other powers in her present reorganization period.) God is with us, we shall prevail!

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PROCLAMATION #1
28 April 1964A
John Koning
318 So. Belle Vista
Youngstown, Ohio
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